0.84/10,000 population in March 2006. The percentage of visible deformity cases among newly detected cases during this period was 1.8%.

Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) medical rehabilitation facilities for leprosy disable persons are being provided free of cost as mentioned below:-

(I) Organizing Prevention of Disability (POD) caps at block level, where leprosy disabled patients received one day train in on self care practices.

(ii) Conducting Re-Constructive Surgery (RCS) operations at various GOI recognized institutions managed by NGO's Central Government Leprosy Teaching & Research Centres, identified Medical Colleges.

(iii) Supplying Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear to needy patients through District Leprosy Societies, NGO's & International Federation of Anti Leprosy Association (ILEP) institutions.

(b) to (e) This Ministry has not received any notice/directions from Madras High Court to submit a report stating any scheme or plans for comprehensive rehabilitation and Welfare of the Leprosy affected persons.

Grape Juice for weight loss

1269. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRMATI SYEDAANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a study on obese patients conducted at Scripps Clinic in San Diego, US, has found that people using Grapefruit or its juice before each meal, lost an average of 3.6 pounds weight;

(b) if so, whether the R&D wing of his Ministry would come up with precise and easy modalities/practices so that obesity could be controlled keeping in view lowering of insulin level, or its interaction with some medicines; and

(c) whether such a study could also include use of other low-cost fruits, vegetables, etc. so that middle or lower-middle income groups can adequately take advantage of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a study was conducted by Scripps Clinic in San Diego, US, on the effects of grape fruits and grapefruit products on body weight and metabolic syndrome. The study found that the groups consuming fresh grapefruit capsule and grapefruit juice demonstrated a significantly greater weigh loss. ICMR has stated that this a pilot study and that no generalization can be made on the basis of this study alone.

(c) Studies conducted at National Institute of Nutrition and elsewhere have shown that consumption of high fiber and low calorie food decrease the weight. The vegetable/fruits which are low in calories, low in sodium, high in potassium, packed with fat-burning enzymes, rich in soluble fiber content and more water content are considered important in weight reduction.

Adjustable Stretchers in Safdarjung Hospital

1270. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adjustable stretchers are not available in Safdarjung Hospital and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to immediately replace all the stretchers with adjustable stretchers for the benefit of the obese and old-age patients; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, detachable patient trolleys/stretchrs and foot steps are available in Safdarjung Hospital to cater to the need of the patients especially obese and old age patients.